

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS: BEXP, AFSP, HU
SUBJECT: HUNGARIAN TRADE OFFICE IN CHICAGO; PERSONNEL CEILINGS
L
REF: A. BUDAPEST 314, B. BUDAPEST 1536

1. DURING PREPARATIONS FOR BEWT DIRECTOR JENKINS' VISIT TO BUDAPEST SEPTEMBER 19-20, THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE HAS ADVISED EMBASSY THAT IT PLANS TO OPEN A TRADE OFFICE IN CHICAGO IN SUMMER OF 1979. TEN PERSONS WOULD BE ASSIGNED TO THE CHICAGO OFFICE.
2. THE MINISTRY CLAIMED THAT THE HUNGARIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAS APPLIED TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR PERMISSION TO OPEN THE CHICAGO OFFICE. NO REPLY HAS BEEN RECEIVED AND AMBASSADOR ESZTERGALYOS HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO APPROACH THE DEPARTMENT TO URGE A FAVORABLE REPLY TO THE HUNGARIAN REQUEST.
3. THE MINISTRY INTENDS TO RAISE THE MATTER DURING JENKINS' VISIT. IT UNDERSTANDS THAT THE PERSONS ASSIGNED TO THE CHICAGO TRADE OFFICE WOULD COUNT AGAINST THE PERSONNEL CEILING OF HUNGARIAN OFFICIALS ASSIGNED TO THE U.S. IF THIS IS THE CASE, THE CEILING WOULD HAVE TO BE RAISED, WHICH IS A REQUEST THE GOH INTENDS TO MAKE OF JENKINS.

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4. THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDED IN BUDAPEST 314 OF JANUARY 19, 1978, AND AGAIN IN BUDAPEST 1536 OF APRIL 17, 1978, THAT THE DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZE THE EMBASSY TO PROPOSE MUTUAL ABOLITION OF PERSONNEL CEILINGS. WE ORIGINALLY MADE SUCH A PROPOSAL TO THE GOH IN 1969 AND BELIEVED THAT WE SHOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IMPROVED

RELATIONS TO ACHIEVE THIS LONG-STANDING U.S. GOAL. TACTICALLY, WE BELIEVE IT IS BETTER TO MAKE THIS PROPOSAL WHILE WE ARE ACTUALLY UNDER OUR PRESENT CEILING (46), THAN WHEN WE MAY NEED TO EXCEED IT. IN THIS CONNECTION, GOH COUNTS AGAINST OUR CEILING ALL USG OFFICERS ASSIGNED ELSEWHERE WHO ARE ACCREDITED IN HUNGARY (PRESENTLY THREE OFFICIALY AND ONE IN PROSPECT) AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS PERSONS SUCH AS TEACHERS AT THE AMERICAN SCHOOL. THUS, WHILE WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE ANY LARGE INCREASE IN EMBASSY STAFF, WE MAY NEED TO REQUEST RAISING OR ABOLISHING THE PRESENT CEILING IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

5. ACTION REQUESTED:

A) AUTHORIZATION TO PROPOSE MUTUAL ABOLITION OF PERSONNEL CEILINGS.

B) STATUS REPORT ON DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON WITH THE HUNGARIAN EMBASSY CONCERNING THE CHICAGO TRADE OFFICE.

C) TALKING POINTS FOR JENKINS TO USE NEXT WEEK. THESE SHOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE III OF THE US-HUNGARIAN TRADE AGREEMENT, WHICH PROVIDES FOR FACILITATION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMERCIAL REPRESENTATIONS AND ARTICLE VI RELATIVE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMERCIAL OFFICES. WILGIS

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